

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 00347 240744Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12
ARA-10 HA-05 /120 W
-----115321 240747Z /17

P R 240706Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7015
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 0347

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, YS, CU, UR, SO, ET, US
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN CONDEMNATION OF WESTERN POWERS' CALL FOR
NEGOTIATIONS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ETHIOPIAN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE (MININFO) ISSUED STATEMENT JAN 22
CONDEMNING CALL MADE BY US AND ALLIES FOR NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT IN HORN OF AFRICA AS "NOT ONLY HYPOCRITICAL,
BUT ALSO A CONCERTED ENDORSEMENT OF SOMALIA'S CONTINUED
INVASION OF ETHIOPIA." STATEMENT NOTED THAT IF REPRESENTA-
TIVES IN "CLOSED-DOOR CONSPIRATORIAL PARLEY" WERE "GENUINE
AND PEACE-LOVING, THEY WOULD HAVE CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE WITH-
DRAWAL OF SOMALIA'S INVADING FORCES FROM ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY
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--WHICH IS ONLY CONDITION FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN HORN
OF AFRICA."

2. "ETHIOPIAN HERALD" EDITORIAL OF SAME DATE REPEATED ESSENCE
OF MININFO STATEMENT AND RESTATED FACT THAT "ETHIOPIA WILL
NEVER SETTLE FOR ANYTHING SHORT OF COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL
WITHDRAWAL OF INVADING FORCES OF REACTIONARY MOGADISCIO

REGIME." EDITORIAL ALSO CHARACTERIZED ALLEGATIONS THAT SOVIET AND CUBAN TROOPS ARE INVOLVED IN FIGHTING AS "NON-SENSICAL."

3. SAME ISSUE OF "ETHIOPIAN HERALD" ALSO CARRIED LETTER TO EDITOR ATTACKING PRESIDENT CARTER SARCASTICALLY AS "ANGEL OF PEACE"WHO SEEKS TO BUY TIME FOR SOMALIA BY INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WOULD CEDE PARTS OF ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY TO SOMALIA. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: EXTREME DEFENSIVENESS OF ETHIOPIAN RESPONSE TO CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS INDICATES TO EMBASSY THAT ETHIOPIANS MIGHT BE FEELING THAT THEIR INTERNATIONAL POSITION IS WEAKENING SOMEWHAT BY ADAMANT REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE AND FEAR, PERHAPS, OF UN-IMPOSED CEASE FIRE IN PLACE WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A NO-WIN SITUATION SIMILAR TO THAT NOW EXTANT IN MIDDLE EAST AND KOREA. BE THAT AS IT MAY, EMBASSY DOES NOT OBSERVE ANY WEAKENING IN ETHIOPIAN DETERMINATION NOT TO NEGOTIATE SO LONG AS SOMALIS ARE IN POSSESSION OF ANY ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY AND OVERWHELMING ETHIOPIAN MANPOWER, SUPPORTED BY RECENT MASSIVE INFLUX OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT AND PRESENCE OF SOVIET, SOUTH YEMENI AND CUBAN ADVISERS AND TROOPS, OFFERS NEAR CERTAIN PROSPECT OF VICTORY IN LONG RUN. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

MATHERON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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